Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 9 and 14 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-20 are now presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

The Examiner first suggests that at Column 15, lines 18-30, Voth discloses the slave nodes adjust and align time clocks by using the tick values. First, the present claims refer to "tick counter values" not "tick values." Second, Voth at the cited section refers only to tick values as a unit of time. Voth never refers to a tick counter nor to its value. Voth does refer to "the current value of the time clock 212" at Column 6, line 34, but there is no suggestion that this is the process tick counter value.

The tick value of Voth is described in more detail at Column 8, lines 58-67 (one tick equals 10 ms for the selected processor). An adjustment of one and one-half ticks is thus a 15 ms adjustment. "Adjustments at a sub-tick level" are presumably adjustments of less than 10 ms.

The Examiner also suggests that tick counter value and timing offsets are not recited in the rejected claims. As an example, the Examiner is respectfully referred to Claim 1, lines 2 and 3 for "processor tick counter value" and to Claim 1, line 5 for "timing offset."

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35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection,

Voth

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Voth, U.S. Patent No. 6,199,169 ("Voth"). As explained above, the Examiner's rejections based on Voth are respectfully traversed. In addition to the distinctions noted above, Voth is concerned only with adjusting clocks (628 of Figure 6). Synchronization as described in the present application does not depend upon adjusting clocks.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clarify the distinctions between Voth and the present invention. First, the unnecessary functional language regarding synchronizing is deleted. Second, an additional recitation regarding sending the timing offset to the first processing engine to apply to operations which are normalized to the timing of the second processing engine has been added (See page 14, lines 4-7. In Voth, a timing adjustment command is sent that instructs the slave to adjusts its clock.

The amendment to Claim 1 resembles Claims 6 and 7, in part. In the rejection of Claim 6, the Examiner refers to Figure 6, item 628 and also to Column 6, lines 53-54. The cited text describes comparing time stamps, but it does not describe adjusting time stamps. In the rejection of Claim 7, the Examiner refers to Figure 6, items 626 and 628 and to Column 3, lines 3-7. Items 626 and 628 refer to an INFO message which is a command to adjust the clock. The cited text explains that the master will send this INFO message that instructs the slave when and by how much to adjust its time clock (3:4). There is no suggestion that a timing offset be applied to certain operations. Instead the clock is adjusted. A similar amendment has been made to Claim 14.

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35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection,

Voth in view of Ozcetin

The Examiner has rejected claims 8, 13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Voth in view of Ozcetin, U.S. Patent no. 6,611,922 ("Ozcetin").

Ozcetin is not relied upon for any of the features discussed above and accordingly, these

rejections are respectfully traversed.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the

amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for

allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and

the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there

remains any issue with allowance of the case.

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Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the

outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37

C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 5/17/5

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